

Upgrade Normal and Emergency Power Distribution Systems
Solicitation VA69D-12-B-0401
Amendment #2
5/24/2012

RFI Responses (RFI's received on or before the May 18th deadline)

Solicitation VA69D-12-B-0401

Upgrade Normal Power Distribution Systems– Jesse Brown #537-12-145

Upgrade Emergency Power Distribution Systems– Jesse Brown #537-12-139

Date: May 24, 2012

1. **QUESTION:** This Solicitation includes “VHA DIRECTIVE 2011-036 - Information to Bidders, Safety or Environmental Violations and Experience Modification Rate” which requires that “... Self insured contractors or other contractors that cannot provide their EMR rating on insurance letterhead must obtain a rating from the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. (NCCI) by completing/submitting form ERM-6 and providing the rating on letterhead from NCCI.”

We have been assured by our insurance agency that the ERM-6 form is only for self-insured companies, and not for “...other contractors that cannot provide their EMR rating on insurance letterhead...” (i.e. other contractors, like ourselves, who merely have insufficient history.) In the attached letter, the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. (NCCI) states that they are unable to comply with our request to provide us with a modification rating.

They do, however, assign a “unity (1.00) factor”.

Please let us know whether this letter meets the VA’s requirement, or, if not, please advise us as to how we can comply.

ANSWER: VHA DIRECTIVE 2011-036 REQUIREMENTS WERE REMOVED FROM THIS SOLICITATION IN AMENDMENT #1. BIDDERS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO SUBMIT EMR DATA.

2. **QUESTION:** The “jpegs” on the following drawings did not print out: AE-101 thru AE-107, AE-109, and AE-110. Please confirm that it is a problem at the input end.

ANSWER: Refer to Addendum 1 Update Drawings showing “jpegs”.

3. **QUESTION:** Are there any current updated civil drawings covering the area of the proposed underground ductbank showing the existing utilities crossing through this area? With the 8’ minimum cover to the top of the ductbank, the bottom of the proposed 42 cell ductbank will be approx.. -12’-0” below the existing exterior grade for a distance of approx.. 100’. Are their known obstructions crossing the lot?

Please verify and/or confirm. **ANSWER:** Refer to 12 Nov. 2008 Geotechnical

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Investigation Report with Appendix. The potholes per Note C on Drawing 537-1C-WP-001 is intended to be used to discover any unknown buried conditions

4. **QUESTION:** Regarding "Underground General Note C": with respect to the underground utility survey and the 12 potholes required, is this for soil sample testing? Is this work to be provided by the contractor or the VA? Typically the VA is responsible for remediation. Who is responsible for the testing of the removed spoils in the underground ductbank area? **ANSWER:** The Contractor shall provide Underground Utility Survey per Note #C Drawing 537-1C-EP-001. The contractor shall remove trench spoils per Note #D. In addition, the potholes are to be tested by the contractor for contamination: Only if the soil tests positive for contamination will the VA be responsible for remediation.
5. **QUESTION:** Are there any current structural drawings showing the footing depth at the point of entry into the crawl space area? With the proposed ductbank being a minimum of 8' to the top of the ductbank below the finished exterior grade to a probable depth of approx. -12'-0" to the bottom of the ductbank and the crawl space floor at approx. -3'-0" below exterior grade, there is a possibility that the proposed ductbank may run into the building footing, which should not be compromised. At the point where the ductbank enters the crawl space area will require an approx. 36"x48" opening in the existing foundation wall for the (42) forty-two conduits. The structural integrity of the building at this point will need to be verified by a structural engineer prior to this cut-out being accomplished. Please verify and/or confirm who is to include this cost? **ANSWER:** Note # D on Drawing 537-1C-EP-001 requires the contractor submit routing drawing for approval. Include details and dimensions of all penetrations and structural modifications. Include digging holes as needed to verify existing conditions at the foundation walls. This submittal will be reviewed by the AE.
6. **QUESTION:** With the existing underground utilities being exposed for the width of the excavation, which could be approx.. 6' to 7' wide, who is responsible for the resupporting of these utilities during the ductbank installation? **ANSWER:** Note # E and F on Drawing 537-1C-EP-001 indicates that all work for the ductbank, including supporting existing utilities and maintaining dock operations is to be included.
7. **QUESTION:** Is the crawl space to be considered as a confined space area? **ANSWER:** Any work in the crawl space shall be "Permit Required Confined Space". Contractor shall comply with VA policy and OSHA regulations.
8. **QUESTION:** After a visual and crawling inspection of the proposed conduit routing in the crawl space area, the last approx.. 60' of conduit routing is virtually impossible to run the (42) forty-two conduits due to numerous interferences from either electrical, plumbing, steam piping, etc. Please verify and/or confirm this routing or is another routing available? **ANSWER:** Note #3 on drawing 537-1C-EP-001 already states

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difficult installation, and note #3 alerts the contractor that offsets are required. The boot box is required to lower the feeds to avoid existing obstructions. The contractor is to remove the existing crawl space topping slab and flush the conduits in crawl as needed. Patch floor to match. No other route is available.

9. **QUESTION:** What type of barrier will be required between the top of the (2) two existing underfloor steam pipes running parallel to the proposed riser closets location and our electrical cables crossing directly on top of them? The drawing calls for a tray for the steam pipes which is either on top or below these pipes? Please confirm this as we are concerned that the heat generated from these steam pipes coupled with the heat generated from our electrical cables could eventually cause some problems. Is the floor pit box to be installed as a steel pullbox construction embedded in the floor? Are we responsible for the structural design and engineering of the box and it's installation? What is the proposed depth of the boot box shown at the south end of the duct run in the crawl space area? **ANSWER:** The barrier is to be wet label and not less than R20. The area (shown as hatched in plan in front of the elevator) is to be flush with existing floor slab, and embedded in the slab, with cables passing below. Saw cut floor and patch to match. Provide a shop drawing for review by the AE. The depth of the pull box must meet 2011 NFPA 70.
10. **QUESTION:** What will the allowed working hours for the riser closets floor coring? **ANSWER:** Nights 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. week days.
11. **QUESTION:** In Building 1C, where is the proposed location of the custom pullbox with removable cover to be installed **ANSWER:** All pullboxes must meet 2011 NFPA 70. This pullbox is anticipated in the crawl space northeast corner.
12. **QUESTION:** Please provide manufacturer and catalog number for the light fixtures specified under the Lighting Fixture Schedule. **ANSWER:** Use the updated lighting fixture schedule on Addendum #1 drawing 537-1C-E0-001.

-----End of RFI Responses-----